

For immediate release
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IBWC APPROVES BRIDGE PLANS

U.S. Commissioner Arturo Q. Duran and Mexican Commissioner Arturo Herrera Solís of the International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC) today signed the conceptual plans for the new Tornillo-Guadalupe International Bridge located in El Paso County, Texas-Guadalupe, Chihuahua. Approval of the conceptual plans means that project proponents can now proceed with final design and construction drawings. The IBWC approved the plans after verifying that the proposed bridge would not provoke deflection or significant obstruction of normal or flood flows of the Rio Grande.

“I am pleased that we were able to approve the conceptual plans to allow this project to move forward,” said Commissioner Duran. “This bridge is important for El Paso County and we will continue to work with the county to advance the project.”

Proponents achieved another milestone recently with the issuance by the U.S. Department of State of a Presidential Permit, which is required for all international bridges. To help the project move forward, the IBWC will develop an agreement for demolition of the old bridge. The Commission must also approve final plans for the new bridge.

The existing two-lane bridge was built in 1938 and is located 21 miles downstream of the Ysleta-Zaragoza Port of Entry. Owned by the IBWC, the toll-free bridge is only able to handle passenger vehicles. El Paso County and the State of Chihuahua plan to construct the new bridge 650 yards upstream of the existing bridge. With six lanes and sidewalks, the new bridge will be a toll facility able to handle commercial truck traffic and pedestrians in addition to passenger vehicles.

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